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Distinguished Descendants of

Colonel Clement Read

and

Bushy Forest and Other Charlotte County Homes of the Early Reads

Two addresses delivered at "Greenfield" by Dr. J. D. Eggleston, President of Hampden-Sydney College, and Judge Robert F. Hutcheson, of the Circuit Court of Virginia, at the Annual Meeting of the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities—October 22, 1932. . . . . .

INTRODUCTION

So many requests have been received for copies of these addresses that it has been decided to print them in pamphlet form for distribution among the Read connection and friends. This is made possible through the courtesy of Mr. J. Barrye Wall, editor and owner of **The Farmville Herald.**

At the close of the programme on October 22, one of the visitors made this humorous comment:

> "Your address reminded me of an incident that occurred when my two sisters and I were young ladies. We had called on an old friend, and found that she was not at home. When her maid met us at the door, one of us said, 'Tell Miss Virginia that three lovely young ladies called on her.'
>
> "Next day she met us on the Village street and said, 'I was sorry to miss you yesterday, but I must tell you what my maid said. She delivered your message, and when I asked her whether you left your names, she said, 'No Ma'm, dey did'n' leave der names, but dey suttenly did reckermend deyselves'."

"You say there are those who have found fault with me to you, because on every occasion—as they claim—I go beyond bounds in praising my friends. I acknowledge, and indeed welcome, the charge; for what guilt is there in a friendliness that seems too great?

"And who are these, pray, who know my friends better than I do? Granting that they have this knowledge, yet why do they begrudge me this very happy mistake? For if my friends are not such as they are depicted by me, still I am happy because they seem so to me. Let them, therefore, transfer their left-handed attentions to others. Those people who call it good judgment to criticise their friends are certainly not too few; but they will not persuade me to think that I love mine too well."—Pliny.

"RETIREMENT," the Home of Major Edmund Read
(See Page 39)

Distinguished Descendants of Colonel Clement Read

By DR. J. D. EGGLESTON,
President of Hampden-Sydney College

THE TOPIC assigned me is a most interesting one; but with such a wealth of material it is impossible, in a paper of reasonable length, to mention all who are distinguished, or to make more than a bare mention of some who deserve extended notice.

One must start with Colonel Clement Read himself. Napoleon once said that he was his own ancestor. In her interesting, informing, and spicy book, **The Reads and their Relatives**, Mrs. Alice Read Rouse sums up in succinct words the character and career of this distinguished gentleman and progenitor of a great line:

> "It is known," she says, "that he came from lower Virginia, a young man of education, influential connections, money, character and ability; settled in the frontier counties upon a part of his thousands of acres, becoming captain, colonel, vestryman, clerk, surveyor, burgess, and officer in active service in the early colonial wars, a lawyer of wide practice, and a statesman of distinction."

Lord Craigwyle has recently spoken of "that race of superbly intelligent and capable men who appeared in Virginia in the middle of the 18th century." Clement Read was one of them.

In not going beyond him for a background, I am not adopting the view of those who have introduced him as a waif who suddenly appeared from nowhere-in-particular and who in some equally mysterious way became the ward of John Robinson, member of the Governor's Council. The family traditions seem to me quite convincing as to his ancestry. The whole case has been stated with

admirable poise, and in perfect good taste, by Mrs. Rouse. She brings out clearly, too, what a wonderful woman, in ability and character, Madam Read was—the equal of her husband in every respect. If Colonel Read and his wife Mary Hill came from nowhere, they were wonderful in beginning a great line; if the traditions are correct, they were admirable examples of two descendants of distinguished lines who lived up to the noblest traits of their ancestors.

Their eldest child, Mary Read, married Colonel Thomas Nash, and died six years later, at the age of 26, leaving two little children. Twenty years later, her promising young son, a Lieutenant in the Continental Army, was killed at Yorktown the day before Cornwallis surrendered. Her daughter Ann Owen Nash married Rev. John Cameron, and from this marriage came a long and distinguished line, from which may be mentioned:

Judge Duncan Cameron, President of the Bank of Carolina; member of the Superior Court; member of the North Carolina Legislature of 1822, which was notable for the eminent men in it; State Senator in 1822-'23.

Judge Walker Anderson, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Florida.

General George B. Anderson, who graduated at West Point at the head of his class, and became an officer in the United States Army; later a General in the Confederate States Army; and whose portrait hangs in the Hall of History at Raleigh.

John Adams Cameron, member of the North Carolina Legislature 1810-12; Major in the War of 1812; Consul to Vera Cruz; and Judge of the Federal District Court of Florida.

Col. Francis Hawks Cameron, Lieutenant in the U. S. Marine Corps; later a gallant Confederate soldier, and for many years Adjutant-General of North Carolina.

Admiral William Anderson Kirkland, of the U. S. Navy, who stayed with the Union in the Uncivil War of 1861-65.

William E. Cameron, a gallant officer of the Confederate States Army; a public speaker of marked gifts;

Governor of Virginia; brilliant editor. "Some force of sweet persuasion sat upon his lips."

Col. Benehan Cameron, who passed away in 1926, and whose great services to his State as head of the State Highway Commission are well known.

Since the first century of Christianity it has been the custom of the Gentile Christians to appropriate all the blessings and hand to the Jews all the curses prophesied in the Old Testament. This Gentile habit seems to run true to form when two families are united by marriage, for when Brown marries Miss Smith, and the offspring show traits that betoken genius or worthy characteristics, the aunts, uncles, sisters, and brothers of Brown ascribe these traits to the Brown inheritance; and if the offspring show idiosyncrasies such as uneven temper, slow mentality, or a tendency to go to jail, Aunt Susan Brown observes piously, "Well, my dear, you can't wonder at it when you know that their grandfather Smith was what he was; and, their grandmother Smith was no better than she ought to have been!" While, if you happen to be in listening distance, you will hear Cousin Maria Smith say exactly the same thing about the handicaps of the Brown side of the line.

This is by way of mentioning the distinguished descendants of Col. Clement Read and his wife Mary Hill, where there have been intermarriages with the Carringtons, Watkinses, Venables, Mortons, Barksdales, Flournoys, Baskervilles, Bedfords, Bouldins, Bookers, Bruces, Cabells, Camerons, Edmundses, Gaines, Hubards, Hutchesons, McIlwaines, and scores of other strains. Who is to decide which drop of blood gave the magic touch of greatness to one of the offspring, or from what malign source the fatal traits came? Certainly not I, in this presence, where most of these families are represented. Happily I do not have to enter this field of genetics, in which are so many pitfalls. I take my stand on the fact that whether the distinction of anyone I mention comes from one strain or another, or from a combina-

tion, I am confining myself to a relation of names of those who have in them the Read blood.

I recall that at the celebration of the Watkins Clan, and their Kin, some years ago at "Do Well," Senator Charles Lassiter said to me, "Eggleston, you and I and a few others here, who have no Watkins-Carrington-Venable-Morton strains in us, will be compelled in self-defense to form a Protective Association. We are here by sufferance, solely because we had the good fortune to marry into one of these Clans." But we could not decide on a name for the Association. Each of us knew that he had brought to his side one in whom, by some alchemic process, were combined all the best traits of all the strains, and from whom had been eliminated those traits that were not good.

This is too long an introduction to the marriage of Margaret Read and Paul Carrington, Sr. How could there have been a happier or more fitting union of excellent traits? She died young; of her Hugh Blair Grigsby said that she was "the best of wives and a woman of innumerable virtues." No wonder that from this union has come a distinguished line:

Captain William Morton Watkins, of "Do Well," a prominent member of the Virginia House of Delegates, 1815-30; a trustee of Hampden-Sydney College; a Christian gentleman of great ability and great influence, married Elizabeth Woodson Venable, a granddaughter of Margaret Read; and two of their daughters were Elizabeth Margaret Watkins and Jane Virginia Watkins. Does some one ask what they were distinguished for? For loveliness of character, for every Christian grace that makes life sweeter and more beautiful; for leaving a memory of two precious and holy lives. Young as I am, I remember "Aunt Mag," as my mother affectionately called her, and to whom all of us were devoted.

One would have to go far to find a descendant of Clement Read and Mary Hill more worthy to be mentioned than the present owner of "Do Well": gifted scholar, gifted teacher, gifted author and writer; sincere in her friendships, and sincere in her great ideals; pub-

lic-spirited, with a rare vision of what constructive and kindly service means; a blessing to her community, an illustrious citizen of an illustrious County—she has wrought nobly and unselfishly, and we honour ourselves in honouring her—Miss Elizabeth Venable Gaines.

William Joel Watkins, Bachelor of Arts of Hampden-Sydney College; Bachelor of Laws of Yale University; Mayor of St. Augustine, Florida, during the terrible days of the "Destruction" that was called "Reconstruction;"

His grandson, George Couper Gibbs II, Bachelor of Law of Washington & Lee University; Judge of the Circuit Court of Florida; able, scholarly, cultured.

Nathaniel Francis Cabell, author, genealogist, gentleman.

Dr. Graham Gilmer, one of the leading ministers of the Southern Presbyterian Church; a man of rare beauty of character; a very man of God.

Hon. J. Sinclair Brown, Speaker of the House of Delegates, whom by placing in the Governor's chair, our State would honour herself.

Francis Nathaniel Watkins, Judge of the County Court of Prince Edward; member of the Virginia Legislature; member of the Board of Trustees of Hampden-Sydney College, and treasurer of the College and of Union Theological Seminary; **clarum et venerabile nomen.**

Asa Dickinson Watkins, Judge of the County Court; Commonwealth's Attorney of Appomattox, Powhatan and Prince Edward Counties; member of the Virginia House of Delegates; member of the Virginia Senate, and regarded as one of the ablest and most useful members of that body; member of the Board of Trustees of Hampden-Sydney College; elder in the Presbyterian Church; a friend to all things worth while; I should call him Judge Great-Heart.

Samuel Woodson Watkins, for many years Treasurer of Prince Edward County; elder in the Presbyterian Church; gentle, generous, public-spirited; a wise counsellor; in his life greatly beloved, and probably the most influential citizen of his County; in his death deeply mourned by his host of friends.

Major Andrew Reid Venable, who added lustre to a a distinguished name, and lived up to every noble characteristic of a noble line; a member of the staff of the immortal Jeb Stuart, and belonging there because of his dauntless courage, and because, like his Chief, he feared only the doing of wrong.

Abram Watkins Venable, lawyer; member of the United States Congress; member of the Confederate States Congress; Trustee of Union Thelogical Seminary; and, if he but knew it, distinguished also for being the ancestor of two ladies I have the privilege of knowing, and of each of whom it may be said that her's is "a heart full of the sweetest incense, a soul like a well-watered garden, a life like a sweet field blessed of God." Another member of this family is Abram Venable Martin, a graduate of Hampden-Sydney College; able head of the Department of Mathematics of the Presbyterian College of South Carolina; an elder in the Presbyterian Church; whose fine abilities and pure, unselfish life have endeared him to a host of friends.

General George Carrington, son of Margaret Read and Judge Paul Carrington, Sr.; First Lieutenant in the War of the Revolution, and a dashing officer; General of Militia after the War; Clerk of the Halifax County Court; member of the Convention of 1788; member of the State Senate. His will contains a tribute to his wife that is equalled in beauty of language and sentiment only by a similar one paid by Samuel Cobbs, of Amelia County, to his wife.

I must pause here to mention Bettie Lewis Morton, daughter of Tazewell S. Morton and Mary B. Scott; granddaughter of Mary Coles Carrington and Joseph Wyatt Scott; great-great-granddaughter of Margaret Read. She married William Tucker Carrington, who was a prominent tobacconist in Richmond for many years, and whose lovely home was a center of delightful and unbounded hospitality. What can be said about her that could exaggerate her lovely character! She was indeed a very "fragrance of Christ;" and it is not too much to say

that those who knew her—and they could be counted by the hundreds—adored her.

And I would pause here not merely to mention, but to do reverence to, the family that for so many years—reaching through two generations—lived at, and brought fame of hospitality, fame of character, fame of culture and refinement, fame of scholarship, fame of every cultivated quality that makes life beautiful, to "Sunnyside," just out of Clarksville, in Mecklenburg County, Virginia: the home of Tucker Carrington and his wife, Mary Carrington Watkins, of "Do Well," and the home of their children, the Misses Carrington. The number 7 is the symbol of completeness, of perfection; but I have thought that at "Sunnyside" the number would have to be revised because of the 8 Carrington Sisters who lived there and made it a synonym of all that a cultivated Virginia home can mean. Who can measure the influences that radiate from lives like these? There is no limit to such influences, because they belong in the realm of the spiritual, and therefore of the eternal. In loveliness of character they were all distinguished; but one remembers with keen pleasure the incisive wit and the penetrating comments of Miss Emily, whose intellect was one of extraordinary vigour and grasp. It was Miss Mildred, her sister, who, in writing of a relative, said, "Cousin Blank had five children who married into unheard of families and settled all over West Virginia." Alice Rouse says of her that she was "aristocratic and delightful to the end" (an end—or rather a beginning—that came in her 84th year), and very appropriately quotes the bit of verse:

> "How can you crush by any sort of fate
> A soul that sits behind a samovar
> Drawing ancestry round it like a shawl?"

One might go back to a former generation and mention Mary S. Carrington (who married Samuel Woodson Venable), daughter of Margaret Read and Judge Paul Carrington, whose caustic wit made her famous, and sometimes dreaded; a wit that would bite-in like old cheese; and by way of contrast one might mention her

sister Anne, who married Col. William Cabell, and who was "mild and unassuming in her manners, with dignity and Roman firmness." Alexander Brown, in his classic genealogy, **The Cabells and Their Kin**, says he was once talking "to a very religious old coloured man who formerly belonged to her, and the old negro remarked that in his whole life he had known only two persons who were certainly sanctified. I asked him who they were, and his reply was, 'Me and Miss Anne.'"

"Miss Anne's" daughter, Elivira Cabell, married James Bruce, and one of their children was Charles Bruce, of "Staunton Hill," who married Sarah Seddon. Of their children, may be mentioned Charles Morelle Bruce, Secretary of Arizona Territory, and Assistant Commissioner of the General Land Office at Washington;

Philip Alexander Bruce, for many years the Secretary of the Virginia Historical Society, and editor of its magazine; who has placed the State of Virginia under debt to him for his invaluable historical works, and the University of Virginia under debt to him for his monumental history of that great School;

William Cabell Bruce, author, historian, United States Senator;

James Douglas Bruce, not so well known to the general public, but a gifted scholar and cultivated gentleman of unusual abilities, and of distinct charm to those who were so fortunate as to belong to the inner circle of his friends. **Natura admirabilis, et exquisita doctrina, et singularis industria.**

A descendant of Clement Read and Mary Hill, whose name is secure in the roster of eminent Virginia citizens, is William Wirt Henry, a native of Charlotte County, lawyer, lecturer, Confederate soldier, President of the American Historical Society; President of the Virginia Historical Society; Christian gentleman; author of **The Life and Letters of Patrick Henry**, his grandfather—in my judgment the standard in fullness, in accuracy, in historical perspective.

Hon. Thomas Stanhope Flournoy, United States Congressman; member of the Virginia Convention of 1861;

Colonel in the Confederate States Army.

Hon. Henry Wood Flournoy, soldier of the Confederacy; Judge of the Hustings Court of Danville, Virginia; Secretary of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

A name that stands out in our distinguished list is that of Alexander Brown, author of **The Genesis of the United States, The First Republic of America,** and **The Cabells and Their Kin**—three books that are classics.

Clement Cabell Dickinson, graduate of Hampden-Sydney College; lawyer; Judge; member of the Missouri State Senate; member of Congress from Missouri; a gentleman of charm and culture.

Paul Carrington Cabell, who was practicing law in Kansas when John Brown and his crew of cut-throats made war on Virginia; who returned to his native State and joined with other sons in resisting the invaders, and became a Lieutenant; who was in Pickett's immortal charge at Gettysburg, and was wounded there; who was captured at Five Forks, and had to endure the beastly horrors of Johnson's Island—surely he deserves a place in our list.

Col. Clement Carrington, of Charlotte County, who belonged to the first class that entered Hampden-Sydney; who ran away from College to join the Continental Army; who served with great distinction; was Judge of the County Court; member of the Virginia Legislature; a gentleman of delightful personality, and genuine as gold.

Judge Paul Carrington, Jr., a soldier in the War of the Revolution; President of the Virginia Senate; Judge of the General Court; an able and eloquent speaker; "an upright, wise and honourable judge, a kind neighbour, an agreeable acquaintance, a sincere friend, adored by his family."

Captain Henry Edmunds, Bachelor of Law of the University of Virginia; Captain in the C. S. A. at 16, who led 50 soldiers over the wall in the charge at Gettysburg, coming out with only 14; brilliant lawyer and brilliant speaker.

Paul S. Carrington, of "Ridgeway," grandson of Margaret Read; successful lawyer; successful planter; trus-

tee of Hampden-Sydney College; a charter trustee of the Medical College of Virginia; he gave up his law practice and spent his life on his plantation because he felt so keenly the responsibility for the proper care and management of his slaves that he was unwilling to leave them to the supervision of an employed overseer. He gave his six sons, and practically all he had of his substance, to the Confederacy. He was granted by President Andrew Johnson a written "pardon" for the treason of defending his State. Consider the record of his six sons:

(1) Isaac H. Carrington, eminent lawyer; Major in the C. S. A.; Provost-Marshal of Richmond, 1863-65; prisoner in Libby Prison for two months at the close of the Northern Invasion; President of the Richmond Bar Association.

(2) Robert G. Carrington, educated at the University of Virginia; soldier in the Confederate States Army.

(3) Dr. William A. Carrington, Confederate Medical Director for Virginia, and died at the age of 33, "worn out by his excessive labours and responsibilities during the war."

(4) Abram C. Carrington, educated at the Virginia Military Institute; an elder in College Church; a brave Lieutenant, killed in 1862 at Frazer's Farm when 31 years old, defending his State. One who knew his wife, Anne Cabell Read, says of her: "She was a woman of unusual brilliancy, keen sense of humor, astonishing industry and deeply pious—one of the bravest, most unusual characters I have ever known."

(5) Dr. Alexander B. Carrington, a Presbyterian minister; a Chaplain and Captain of the Confederacy. And I should feel a personal loss if I omitted the name of his son, Alexander Berkeley Carrington, of Danville, Virginia, a gentleman of the Old School; eminent in business in Danville and Virginia; an officer in the Presbyterian Church; a valued member of the Board of Trustees of Hampden-Sydney College.

(6) Captain Edgar W. Carrington, educated at Hampden-Sydney College and at Union Theological Seminary in Virginia; Captain in the Confederate States Army;

killed at Seven Pines a few weeks after his marriage, only 26 years old.

Nor could I omit the name of one of Paul S. Carrington's daughters, who for saintliness of character, for devotion to her household, for every beautiful grace, takes her place in that galaxy of women who have made the names of Cabell, of Carrington, of Read, of Coles, and of Venable notable: Louisa Cabell Carrington, who married Captain Andrew Reid Venable, of Hickory Grove and Hampden-Sydney; and whose daughters have inherited the same lovely outlook on life, the same spirit of neighbourliness and hospitality, the same beauty of character, that have made the women of these ancestries so marvellous to the men who have, by marriage, or by kinship, or by friendship, been associated with them.

A son of this marriage is William Henry Venable, Bachelor of Arts of Hampden-Sydney College; Bachelor of Law of Johns Hopkins University; able lawyer and eloquent speaker, of Norfolk, Virginia.

The third child of Colonel Clement Read and Mary Hill his wife, was Colonel Clement Read, Jr., whose short life was occupied as a "surveyor, lawyer, planter, builder, statesman, and churchman"—a life of great usefulness and industry. He died when only 34, after 13 years of a happy married life with Mary Nash. At 21 he was a practicing attorney; at 22 he was attorney for the Crown; at 25 he was a Justice of the County Court; at 27 he was Lieutenant Colonel of Militia; at the same age he succeeded his father as member of the House of Burgesses for the County of Lunenburg; and when in 1766 Charlotte County was formed, he was Burgess for that County through 1768. Two years later he passed away.

His son, Clement Read III, died in the Continental Army when 22; a First Lieutenant. The interval of over 150 years does not lessen the pang we feel that a life of singular sweetness and talent was cut down so early. We might say of him what Pliny in one of his letters said of a young friend of his:

> "It adds poignancy to our grief that a young man of his shining talents should be

cut off in his early prime, and snatched from those high honours to which his virtues, had they been permitted to grow to their full maturity, would certainly have raised him."

His brother, John Nash Read, ran away from home to join the army of General Greene, and fought through the War. He moved to Tennessee, where he became a useful and prosperous citizen. A son, Sion Spencer Read, was a soldier in the War of 1812; and his son, Dr. Thomas Read, fought in the War against Mexico and was also a soldier of the Confederacy, and one of Dr. Read's children is Mrs. Caroline Pickens, of Tennessee, genealogist and writer.

Motte Alston Read, son of Captain William Melvin Read and his wife, Jane Alston, of South Carolina, was Professor of Physiography at Harvard; Instructor in Physiography at Radcliffe and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Field Assistant of the U. S. Geological Survey; member of the International Congress of Geologists; member of the German Alpenverein; charter member of the Harvard Natural History Society. Alice Rouse says that "though his intellectual equipment was superb, it was surpassed by his charm, his fortitude, and his spirited and creative interest in life and all loveliness." He died at 48.

Omitting for the present the fourth child of Colonel Clement Read, I must mention the fifth, Colonel Thomas Read, who was a Burgess for Charlotte County; member of the Conventions of 1774-76; member of the Committee of Safety for Charlotte, 1775-76; member of the Constitutional Convention of 1788; Clerk of the County Court for fifty years; a gentleman of great influence in his community. He was County Lieutenant during the War of the Revolution, a position of great responsibility. His only child, a daughter, died unmarried.

Hugh Blair Grigsby in his "Virginia Convention of 1776," gives an interesting description of Colonel Read and of his great influence in his County. He dressed in the old style, "always wore his hair powdered and re-

tained his queue. . . . In society he was the model of the accomplished gentleman. . . . Even on his dying bed his wonted amenity was still apparent." And Mr. Grigsby draws aside the curtain for a moment and lets us share the sorrow of this notable old Virginian:

> "One overshadowing sorrow darkened his last days. A daughter, an only child of his old age, whose voice he fondly hoped would soothe his departing spirit, he consigned to the grave, and when in less than two years after her death, his own body was about to be placed by her side, his friends saw in the beaten path that led to her solitary tomb beneath the hollies of Ingleside, whence came the shaft that laid him low."

One recalls the parallel of a great old Roman, broken-hearted over the loss of his daughter Tullia. After her death he retired to one of his country homes, where he might for a while be alone with his grief. To his friend Atticus he writes:

> "In this retreat I am away from the conversation of everyone; each morning I hide myself in the deep wood, and do not come out of it before the evening. All my talk is with my books; but my tears at times interrupt. I resist this as far as I can, but am not yet able to do much."

The sixth child of Colonel Clement Read was Major Edmund Read, a distinguished officer of the Revolution, and a member of the Virginia Legislature in 1785. He left no issue.

The seventh child of Colonel Clement Read and Mary Hill Read was Anne, who married (1) Captain William Jameson, and (2) Col. Richard Elliott.

A grandson of Anne Read and Captain Jameson was William H. Elliott, of Charlotte County; an alumnus of Hampden-Sydney College; writer and brilliant wit. He was preparing to publish **Reminiscences of John Randolph of Roanoke**, but on learning that his kinsman, Powhatan Bouldin, had his work in preparation, he generously turned over to him all his material. Mr. Bouldin

speaks of him as a man of genius and poet. "Poems of his were copied into London periodicals," he says.

A great-grandson of Anne Read and Captain Jameson is James Edward Booker, graduate of Hampden-Sydney and of Union Theological Seminary in Virginia, and alumnus of the University of Gottingen; distinguished minister of the Gospel; Superintendent of Synodical Home Missions in Virginia; a gentleman who has never undertaken anything that he did not improve, and about whom nothing too good can be said. "Mark the perfect man, and behold the upright, for at his journey's end is peace."

A great-great-grandson of Anne Read and Captain Jameson is Dr. William G. Eggleston of Oakland, Calif.; alumnus of Hampden-Sydney College and of the University of Virginia; graduate in medicine of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of New York; a journalist of rare ability and of wide reputation; editor, author, attractive speaker, with a wit and humor that delight and charm.

The 8th child of Colonel Clement Read and his wife was Jonathan Read, who became a Captain in the War of the Revolution, and died at the age of 43.

I have reserved for the last a mention of the 4th child of Colonel Clement Read, and his descendants:

Colonel Isaac Read, who married Sarah Embra. He was prominent in War, prominent in Church, and prominent in State. A member of the House of Burgesses when that body was dissolved by Lord Botetourt in 1769, he went with the other members to the Raleigh Tavern to form an Association against the Act of Parliament imposing duties on tea. He was a member of the Convention of 1774, which instructed the Delegates in Congress to propose independence. He was a member of the Committee—of which his brother Thomas and his brother-in-law, Paul Carrington, were also members—to draft a Declaration of Rights, which was reported and read May 27, 1774; was a member of the Convention of August, 1774, and that of March and June, 1775, and by this body was appointed Lieutenant Colonel of the 4th Vir-

ginia Regiment. Putting aside all civil distinctions, leaving a beautiful home, he entered the War, where his career was "distinguished, brief, and tragic," as Mrs. Rouse well says. For his country he gave his life—like so many others of his kin. Indeed, it is tragic to note how many of the descendants of Clement Read gave their lives or their fortunes—and often both—to their country. "**Dulce et decorum est pro patria mori**"—yes, but a tragedy nevertheless.

In 1771, the year of his marriage, he built this home, "Greenfield," now sacred with precious memories; six years later he was buried in Christ Church Yard in Philadelphia; leaving here a bereaved widow and three children. His eldest son Clement became a noted divine.

From this line came Powhatan Bouldin, author of a Life of John Randolph, and of a book of endless interest, **Letters Found in an Old Trunk.**

Shall we attempt to include William Clayton Torrence, the gifted genealogist and author? It is true that he is not descended from Clement Read and Mary Hill, but he had the good fortune to marry Elizabeth Green Neblett, who is descended from them, and moreover, Mr. Torrence is himself descended from Colonel George Reade and his wife Elizabeth Martieu; and with these double fortunes we may well adopt him into our circle.

Another descendant is Dr. Berryman Green, Professor in the Episcopal Seminary at Alexandria, who was offered the office of Bishop of Virginia.

Nathaniel E. Venable should have been placed in another line, but as he married Mary Embra Scott, we place him here. A grandson of Margaret Read; a trustee of Hampden-Sydney College; an officer in the War of 1812, the builder of beautiful "Longwood," near Farmville, which by some unusual fortune has escaped the fire demon, and, better still, has escaped the covetous hands of the exploiter, and the desecrating changes of modernization—which is another word for degeneracy in morals and manners.

Mrs. Rouse, in her **Reads and Their Relatives,** quite exhausts the vocabulary of superlatives in picturing the

excellent qualities of scores of the Read descendants on the distaff side; yet even at that, she does no more than justice to those she mentions, and many others might have been included; she could not know—or know of—all of them. Is it any wonder that the mere males among the Read descendants have succeeded so well, with such a background, and such inspiration! Were I to attempt to mention even the names of these lovely women, I would keep you here for an additional hour or more.

In describing one of these, Mrs. Rouse speaks of her as " one of the handsomest, loveliest and noblest of women "—and I can testify that the picture is not overdrawn. This description might apply to dozens of them, but this one married one of the dearest friends I have ever had, Dr. Waller Morton Holladay. I make no apology in speaking of her and others like her, for if being lovely in character, and in all the social graces, does not make a person " distinguished," in the the name of all that is good and proper, what does? I get heartily sick of the idea that distinction must be accorded only to those who have achieved fame as warriors, or statesmen, or lawyers, or physicians, or money-makers. I know of some men whose chief claim to distinction is that they have beguiled lovely women into marrying them, but I should not regard it as legitimate to include such in this sketch.

Laura Dyer Venable belongs here: A graduate nurse at Johns Hopkins, she was a missionary in China; served with Dr. Grenfell in Labrador; was with the Johns Hopkins Unit in France during the World War; and was several times cited for bravery. If one must qualify as a warrior, she can qualify.

Another that must be included is Elizabeth Marshall Venable, author of the valuable, though incomplete, genealogy of **The Venables of Virginia.** If one must qualify as a warrior, she must be included also, for it takes a warrior to gather and publish the genealogy of a family! I hope that some day some Venable descendant will enable her to republish her book and add to it the valuable unpublished material she has on hand.

I could not properly omit Macon Reed, son of Mary Cantey Venable and Dr. Richard C. Reed, the eminent minister, scholar, teacher, and author. Macon Reed is a brilliant scholar and teacher, who is now a member of the faculty of Hampden-Sydney; who has few equals as an instructor and Dean, and who could not possibly have a superior in either field.

I cannot do better than to quote what Mrs. Rouse says of Charles Scott Venable, scholar, author, soldier: "He was a man of superlatively brilliant mind, uncommonly handsome person and had a career uniformly distinguished and useful in all of its manifestations." What higher praise could be accorded him than to say that he was a member of the Staff of General Robert E. Lee, and belonged there! His son, Francis P. Venable, also, has had a distinguished career, as scholar, author, teacher, University President.

Nor could I omit Mary Scott Venable, who married E. Taylor Taliaferro, a gentleman of the old school, and a delightful raconteur. Mrs. Taliaferro was a woman of vigorous mind, a scholar, author, teacher, wit; and of charming social graces.

Charles Scott Carrington, noble gentleman: President of the James River and Kanawha Canal Company.

Isaac Read II, "handsome, elegant, orderly, of a serene and lovely nature, he was eminently fitted for a successful civil life." He was another of the many taken by the terrible toll of war, for his ill health and eventual death were brought on by his experiences in the War of 1812-15, in which he was a Lieutenant.

Clement Carrington Read, President of the Farmers Bank of Farmville, Va.; member of the Board of Trustees of Union Theological Seminary, and its treasurer for 30 years; elder in the Presbyterian Church, he has been described as "one of the very best men in the world," "hospitable, kindly, wise, charitable, modest, and well-beloved."

I have often heard my mother say that Mrs. Richard McIlwaine—"Lizzie Read" she called her—was the most beautiful woman she had ever seen, and as beautiful in

character as she was in person. Mrs. Rouse has said of her: "She was a beautiful blonde woman of well-nigh perfect features and colouring, a character of depth and fineness, and a manner gracious and gay, yet delicately austere." She was the worthy mate of a great teacher, a great College President, and a great Christian.

Henry Read McIlwaine, impeccable, imperturbable, and inveterate bachelor; Bachelor of Arts; Master of Arts; Doctor of Philosophy; Doctor of Laws; Professor of English at Hampden-Sydney; Virginia Director of the American Library Association War Service; member of the Virginia State Council of Defense; member of the Virginia War History Association; State Librarian of Virginia; editor, author, historian, genealogist, gentleman—one can say of him what Erasmus said to Robert Fisher about Thomas Moore: "**Thomae Mori ingenio quid unquam finxit natura vel mollius, vel dulcius, vel felicius?**" "What hath nature ever fashioned more tender, more charming, more happy, than the character of Thomas Moore?"

Archibald Graham McIlwaine, eminent lawyer of Texas; and his brother, Clement Read McIlwaine, learned in the law, and one of the most cultivated and attractive gentlemen I have ever known.

You have noticed that I have not attempted to observe a chronological order. Of course I should have done this, but there are so many things I ought to do that I do not, and so many things I do not that I should do, and it is so hard to teach a man to reform suddenly when he is hardened in his sins, and when he is busy with his regular duties, that I crave your forgiveness.

Surely fate dealt hard with Isaac Read III. With a mind of unusual ability and clearness, well educated, his fortune was swept away by the failure of his guardian, and when he rose superior to this misfortune and was again on his feet, the ruinous War of 1861 came. A scholar and man of letters, a brilliant lawyer, he could not cope with the frightful destruction that came to his beloved State and the South. His son Isaac Read IV, taking first honour at Hampden-Sydney, later went to

New York City, where, with his cousin Clement Read, a gentleman of varied gifts, he built up a great business and fortune in the Read Phosphate Company. Alice Rouse describes him as " a man of excellent mind and inflexible honour, fearless, gentle, dependable, with the smile of an affectionate child and the eyes of an ancient lion."

Edmund Strudwick Read, who enlisted at nineteen in the Confederate States Army, and became " a gallant soldier and an admirable officer and leader."

Worthy to be mentioned in our list is Thomas Edmunds Barksdale, a Master of Arts of the University of Virginia, planter, and for many years Superintendent of Schools of Halifax County.

William Lewis Venable, Bachelor of Arts of Hampden-Sydney, a brave soldier of the Confederacy, who at twenty-six gave his life for his country.

Nathaniel E. Venable, a graduate of Hampden-Sydney, a brave officer of the Confederacy; Abram B. Venable, a graduate of Hampden-Sydney, and Master of Arts of the University of Virginia, First Lieutenant of Pickett's Brigade at Gettysburg, editor of the San Francisco Examiner; Clement Read Venable, A. B., of Hampden-Sydney, M. A. of the University of Virginia, Lieutenant in the Confederate States Army.

Paul C. Venable, a graduate of Hampden-Sydney, and Captain of Artillery on Wade Hampton's Staff; and his grandson, Samuel Woodson Venable, an officer killed in the World War.

William Fontaine Carrington, A. B. of Hampden-Sydney; M. D. of the University of Pennsylvania; Surgeon of the U. S. Navy; Chief Surgeon of the Confederates States Navy.

His grandson, Judge Joseph C. Hutcheson, Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Laws of the University of Virginia, is a Federal Judge of Houston, Texas.

Another grandson, Allen C. Hutcheson, Bachelor of Arts of the University of Virginia; an M. D. of Columbia University Medical School; medical missionary, devoting his talents to the service of his Master.

Three other grandsons: Fontaine Carrington Weems, Master of Arts of Princeton; Lieutenant Colonel, General Staff, United States Army in the World War; awarded the U. S. Distinguished Service Cross; made an officer of the Order of the Crown by the Italian Government. Benjamin Francis Weems, Jr., graduate in medicine of Johns Hopkins Medical School; Captain of the U. S. Medical Corps, Base Hospital No. 2, A. E. F. Wharton Ewell Weems, Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts, University of Virginia, and Bachelor of Laws of the University of Texas; Captain in U. S. Air Service in the World War.

William W. Read II, who resigned from Annapolis to enter the War in 1861, and became a Lieutenant in the Confederate States Navy; an officer of conspicuous bravery and ability.

George Whitefield Read, wounded in the C. S. A.; Henry Watkins Read, killed in the C. S. A.; Isaac Archer Read, died of camp fever in the C. S. A.; Judge Nicholas Cabell Read, a member of the Student Company in the C. S. A.; all of them at Hampden-Sydney at the same time.

Robert Carrington, a brave officer of the Confederacy.

Isaac Coles Carrington, bright, witty, winsome, cultivated; owner of "Sylvan Hill;" the death of whose wife, Sara Embra Read, left him desolate—and no wonder, for it was said of her that she was "distingueshed by graces of person and character," and "was one of those children of the Kingdom of whom it may be said the world was not worthy."

Her younger sister, Mary Louisa Read, was, as Mrs. Rouse says, "a gentle, exquisitely fine and lovely girl with a tender heart and a mind and character dauntless as" that of her husband. He was David Comfort, Jr., who was a Bachelor of Arts and a Master of Arts of Princeton; came to Virginia and began his career as a teacher; and after teaching in Prince Edward Academy and Hampden-Sydney, established his famous school in Charlotte County. Upon the plantation belonging to his wife he built Moldavia, named for the two. When the

War of 1861 started, he went north and adhered to the Union, but his son, David III, a Presbyterian minister, was a soldier and Chaplain of the Confederate States Army; and the second son Samuel Read Comfort ran away from Princeton and joined the Confederate States Army when 21, and died in the trenches in Petersburg, Virginia—another of the Read Clan who gave his life for his State. Another son, James Comfort, an A. B. of Princeton, and a Bachelor of Laws, became a distinguished lawyer in Tenessee, and was a tower of strength in the upbuilding of the University of that State.

A grandson was Alexander J. McKelway, with a mind of extraordinary brilliancy; a minister of the Gospel; a writer of unusual force; editor, publicist; for many years Secretary of the National Child Labor Association; for whom I had a great admiration and a great affection.

Nor should I omit from this list Mr. John Martin, prominent attorney of Halifax County; a graduate of Hampden-Sydney College; member of the Board of Trustees of Hampden-Sydney; active in the educational work of his County and in everything that makes for its welfare; and Dr. William Read Martin, graduate of Hampden-Sydney, and now an able and beloved physician in Charlotte County.

Times presses, but how can I omit Clement C. Read, who studied at Hampden-Sydney and the University of Virginia, entered the War of '61 as a private and at its close was acting Captain: "A man of excellent and cultivated mind and distinguished acquirements; honourable, poetic, sensitive, gallant and imaginative; teacher, writer, lawyer, chemist." What Pliny in one of his letters said of a friend, we may say of Clement Read: "In his conversation, and even in his very voice and countenance, there was an extraordinary sweetness; to this advantage he joined an elevated, penetrating, facile, and charming mind."

Juliet Edmonia Slaughter, of whom Alice Rouse speaks as "gentle and guileless and good, her blameless life surrounds her family with a glow of warm affection which is lovingly returned;" a member of many patriot-

ic societies; an indefatigable family genealogist.

Abram Carrington Read, an honour graduate of Hampden-Sydney; a graduate in law of Columbia University; President of the Read Phosphate Company; successful man of business, and one of the most prominent and influential citizens of Savannah, Georgia.

Mrs. Shelley Rouse—charming, piquant, bright, delightful, lovable Alice Read; the Genealogist-in-Chief of the Family, who has given us a book of unusual interest and value. What real joy her gracious presence would add to an occasion so fitting as this, and in a spot so sacred!

Robert F. Hutcheson, Bachelor of Arts of Hampden-Sydney; Bachelor of Law of Washington & Lee; Judge of the Circuit Court of Virginia; active in church and civic affairs; affable in disposition; growing in reputation as a Judge of probity and wisdom; whom his many friends hope to see elevated some day to the Supreme Court of Virginia.

Thomas B. Hutcheson, Professor of Agronomy at the Virginia Polytechnic Institute; a gifted teacher and author.

John R. Hutcheson, Director of Extension Work at the Virginia Polytechnic Institute; whose reputation as a leader in constructive agricultural development has gone far beyond the bounds of his State.

Edward Carrington Venable, Jr., A. B. of Princeton; seeing war service in France, 1917; Second Lieutenant, U. S. Air Service; an author of growing reputation.

Charles Scott Venable III, A. B., A. M., Ph.D., Captain in the Chemical Warfare Service, 1918; a scientist of distinction. His uncle, Charles Scott Venable, a physician of note; Major of the Medical Corps, U. S. A., Base Hospital 41, A. E. F.

Robert H. Tucker, a recognized authority in the field of Economics; now Professor at Washington & Lee University.

Robert P. Hamilton III, Rhodes scholar; rendering distinguished service in the World War, winning the Croix de Guerre with Silver Star.

William Haynie Neblett, Captain in the U. S. Army, 1917-19; now a lawyer of great promise in Los Angeles.

Clement Read Strudwick, who is making a wide reputation as a portrait painter of unusual ability.

For the last, let me mention William Watkins Read, graduate of Hampden-Sydney College; lawyer; planter; elder in the Presbyterian Church; trustee of Hampden-Sydney. He kept " the home fires burning " for the Confederacy by raising food-products on a large scale to feed those at the front. One who knew him writes me: " He was a man of giant mind, wide culture, great influence, a successful farmer." For many years he was Superintendent of Schools of Charlotte County. I recall a visit I made to Greenfield when I was 15 years old, a Sophomore in College: As I walked under the old trees to the front porch, I saw an elderly gentleman sitting at ease reading. I recognized him, as I had seen him at the Commencement exercises. He greeted me pleasantly and, after a few words, went inside to announce the visitor. He left his book behind, and I quickly glanced at it to see what he was reading on this summer day. It was an old volume of Tacitus or Livy; and I recall the impression this made on me. Everything I had seen, as I approached the house, was in good order: the crops were smiling, the yard was well kept; there was evidence of comfort and repose on every side. And here was the owner and manager of this plantation sitting on his porch reading an old Roman historian. It is a picture I have never forgotten.

He was a gentleman of great simplicity of manner and character; but he would have been at his ease in the presence of those sturdy planters of that period in our history when, as Senator Henry Cabot Lodge of Massachusetts—no lover of the South—once wrote, this Commonwealth had produced more men of eminence than Greece in her palmiest days.

The truth is, these old Virginians, from the founding of our Colony, down to within the period of men now living, remind one of the sturdy, oak-fibred Englishmen at their best, whether of the nobility or of the yeomanry;

and they in turn remind one of those noble old Romans in the best days of the Republic. Nowhere on earth, in times past or present, have the superiors of these Romans, these Englishmen, these Virginians, been found. They cultivated their minds, their characters, their acres. They loved their homes, their farms, their country.

And does not this triple love constitute a kinship? Fairfax Harrison in his fascinating book, **Roman Farm Management**, says that stopping one day at a book stall on the Quai Voltaire in Paris, he picked up the writings of Cato and Varro, two old Romans who had written on agriculture; they carried him in imagination, "not to the vineyards and olive yards of Roman Italy, but to the blue hills of a far-distant Virginia where the corn was beginning to tassel and the fat cattle were loafing in the pastures." No wonder!

Cato, in his **De Agri Cultura**, as cited by Mr. Harrison, said that "the farmer should direct his efforts to two needs: profit and pleasure, one solid and the other agreeable." Could there be an example more fitting than the one I have mentioned? What Pliny once said about one of the Romans of his day, could have been said about many of the old Virginia planters—Mr. Read, for example. Stating that he had been invited to pay a visit in the country, to see one of his friends, Pliny wrote: "Looking upon him as a worthy father of a family, and an industrious farmer, I meditated such topics as I imagined him versed in; but I no sooner began, than he led me back to professional subjects by his cultured conversation. How pithy his every remark! How pure his Latin and his Greek! How extensive is his reading! How tenacious his memory! You would think the man lived in Athens, instead of at home in the country."

Few homes in Virginia have remained in one family for 161 years. Founded by ancestors of delightful personality and culture, the high tradition has been kept, each succeeding generation proving worthy of the trust

transmitted to it. And so it is today, under the loving care of those who add grace and charm to this wonderful old home.

* * * * *

"I have often heard Quintus Maximus and Publius Scipio, besides other distinguished men of our State, who were wont to say that their minds were, to an extraordinary degree, kindled with the desire for moral excellence, when they looked upon the images of their forebears. Not that wax or other figures could in themselves have so great a power, but that this flame in their hearts was increased by the memory of the exploits of these illustrious men; and that this was not allayed until their own excellence had equalled the renown and glory of their ancestors" (Sallust's Jugurtha).

Bushy Forest and Other Early Homes of the Read Family, of Charlotte County, Virginia

By JUDGE ROBERT F. HUTCHESON

SLEMENT READ, the Elder, pioneer settler on Little Roanoke River, and his five sons, Clement, Isaac, Thomas, Jonathan and Edmund, are interesting figures in Charlotte County history, not only from a genealogical standpoint (though a great many of their descendants still live in this section of Virginia), but also because it is a fact that the story of the settlement and early development of the county, its organization as a separate political unit, its Colonial and Revolutionary history, cannot be told without constant reference to them and their activities. Perhaps I should include the name of Madam Read also, since we are told that Col. Joseph Wyatt, a contemporary of John Randolph, who represented the county for fifteen terms in the House of Delegates and three in the State Senate, always insisted that she belonged in any list of the most talented men that Charlotte had produced. The prominence of the family in our early history and its influence in public affairs will appear from a bare enumeration of a few facts about them. If 1733, the date given by Bouldin and others, is really the year in which the elder Clement settled on Little Roanoke, he was almost the first white man to locate within the confines of what is now Charlotte; his estates on the upper reaches of that stream, embracing some 10,000

acres, surpassed in extent even those of the land-hungry Randolphs at its mouth; and the inventory of his slaves and personal possessions, which we may read in the records of the County Court of Lunenburg, shows that at the time of his death, he was easily the county's wealthiest citizen. At various times in his career he was King's Attorney for Lunenburg (as well as for several other counties), County Surveyor, Vestryman of Cumberland and then of Cornwall Parish, Burgess from Lunenburg, County Lieutenant of the Militia, active leader in frontier defense in the French and Indian War, and Clerk of the County Court. These public positions no doubt helped him to fill in the idle moments not required for his regular duties as owner of three large plantations, and lawyer practising in four or five counties, and kept him from suffering from ennui.

After his death, his sons had the same prominence in county affairs. Clement, the oldest, succeeded his father in the House of Burgesses, serving from 1763 to 1768. He was a member when the act forming Charlotte County was passed in 1764, and no doubt drafted it and secured its passage. Mr. Wm. F. Vaughan remembers that his grandmother, Mrs. Josiah Vaughan, used to say that her grandmother told her that the first County Court, at which Charlotte was organized, was held on the Ash Camp estate of Clement Read, where Mr. Vaughan now lives. He was also a vestryman, King's Attorney, Justice, and County Lieutenant.

Isaac Read succeeded his brother as Burgess, serving from 1769 to 1772, and was a member of the Revolutionary Conventions of 1774 and 1775. Mr. Hugh Blair Grigbsy has called attention to the fact that three Charlotte County men, two sons and a son-in-law of Clement Read, Senior, served on the Committee, which adopted the Virginia Bill of Rights, and reported it to the Convention of 1774, namely, Isaac Read, Thomas Read and Paul Carrington.

Thomas Read was Clerk of the County for fifty-one years, a member of the Conventions of 1774, '75 and '76

and of the Constitutional Convention of 1788.

In this year of the Washington Bi-centennial, it is interesting to speculate on the contacts of these early Reads with Washington. If we follow the genealogists who make Clement Read, Senior, a great-grandson of George Reade, of Gloucester, then he and Washington were near relatives, the latter being a great-great-grandson of the same George Reade. Be that as it may, they must have known each other well in Williamsburg during Clement Read's years of service as a Burgess, and when Gov. Dinwiddie entrusted the defense of the Virginia frontier from 1754 to 1758 to the youthful Washington, he called upon the experience and sagacity of the older proprietor of Bushy Forest to see to the arming and provisioning of Washington's uncertain militia troops for these campaigns.

Grigsby tells us that Thomas Read, as a member of the Convention of 1788, opposed the ratification of the Constitution of the United States and the formation of the Federal Union, taking sides with Patrick Henry against Madison, who was backed by the powerful influence and support of Washington. Three years later Washington as President made his first good-will tour through the South for the purpose of building up public favor and support for the infant government, and on his return, as we know, stopped for breakfast at Charlotte Courthouse, June 7, 1791, presumably at the Tavern which was then conducted by one John Timberlake, but which was owned, along with all the rest of Charlotte Courthouse, by Thomas Read. We do not find in Washington's Diary, or elsewhere, an account of any public reception tendered the President, or any ceremonies in his honor. We know that Col. Read was a staunch Jeffersonian and did not approve of what some considered the monarchial tendencies of the Washington regime, but we cannot believe that he would have permitted this to interfere with the duties of hospitality, had he been informed in time of the visit. We must assume that news of the great man's presence did not reach "Ingle-

side" until he was gone. Col. Clement Carrington, whose father voted with the Washington side in the Convention of 1788, writes thus of the visit in a letter to his brother-in-law, Col. Wm. Cabell. of Union Hill: "The beloved President passed lately through the County. He rested a day with Mr. Coles. He is in perfect health. We did not address, as is the custom, but the laborer forsook his work and the lame forgot his crutch to gaze on him as he passed, and we looked at him without mercy!"

Since, then, the Reads occupy such a prominent place in the early history of Charlotte, I have thought that it might be interesting, and not altogether without profit to take as the subject of this paper a study of what our records disclose about their various "seats" or "plantations" in the County. The names of these homes are "Bushy Forest," "Retirement," "Ash Camp", "Ingleside" and "Greenfield."

"BUSHY FOREST"

The settlement of this section of Virginia between 1730 and 1750 was promoted and encouraged by the Colonial Government as a protection against Indian raids from the mountains upon the Tidewater settlements. By an Act of Assembly passed in 1738 it was provided that all who should settle upon Roanoke River, "on the south branch, above the fork thereof, and on the north branch above the mouth of Little Roanoke, otherwise called Lickinghole, including all the lands on all the said branches, and the lands lying between them," should be exempted from the payment of all public, county and parish levies for ten years. Among the first to take advantage of this attractive opportunity for uniting patriotic duty with personal profit was the elder Clement Read. Bouldin gives the date of the establishment of his seat of "Bushy Forest" on the Little Roanoke as 1733. At that time he was only twenty-six years old. and had been married but three years. Bouldin does not give us the source of his information, and I am aware of no record now existing, by which the date may be exactly fixed, but I am inclined to think from my in-

vestigations in the Clerk's Offices of Brunswick and Lunenburg that 1733 is about ten years too early. He certainly owned and cultivated, and apparently lived on, a plantation on Waqua Creek in Brunswick County, which he sold in 1744; the first record I know of which furnishes a certain indication of his presence on Little Roanoke is an order of the County Court in 1746 that his tithables assist in clearing a road from the mouth of Ash Camp Creek to Randolph's road. There are other indications, which cannot be gone into in detail here, but which incline me to fix the date as about 1743.

Our first surprise is the discovery that no patent was ever issued to Clement Read for Bushy Forest, or, as to that, for any part of his extensive estates in Charlotte. The records show that he had his Bushy Forest estate of some 4500 acres, and his Ash Camp estate of about 3500 acres, surveyed by Drury Stith, Surveyor, and that he entered his applications for them in the Secretary's Office, but for some reason he did not busy himself to obtain the patents in his lifetime, and they were not issued until after his death to Clement Read, Jr., as his eldest son and heir, in the year 1765. In addition to these two large tracts, the deed books of Lunenburg show that he acquired by purchase from various parties approximately 2000 acres more on the south side of Little Roanoke, a part of which lay opposite Bushy Forest and was added to it, being the land now embraced in the McNeny, Carpenter and Wingo farms; and the rest lay further down the stream about Mossingford, and included portions of the land now embraced in "Do-Well," and possibly "Greenwood".

He establised his residence at Bushy Forest, so named, according to tradition, because he found the woods still uncleared of undergrowth, which was a circumstance sufficiently rare to excite notice in that day on account of the Indian practice of burning the woods periodically to make them safer from lurking enemies, and more convenient for the chase. The name is still applied to that portion of the original estate (now owned by Mr.

Wm. G. Spencer), on which the mansion house stood, but the original Bushy Forest lay on both sides the present hard-surfaced road, and extended from the outskirts of Charlotte Courthouse almost to Drakes Branch, and included the farms now known as Arcadia, Retirement, Bushy Forest, McNeny's, Carpenter's and Wingo's. There was, of course, no Charlotte Courthouse then, or for more than twenty years thereafter, though Col. Read did erect in 1755 on the northern boundary of the estate the "Magazine", around which the village afterwards grew.

On the southern border of the estate the first church in the County was built. The vestry of Cumberland Parish, at its first meting (in 1746) made the following order:

"Thomas Bouldin, Abraham Martin and Clement Read are appointed to fix on some convenient place near Little Roanoke to erect a Chapel, & make report to the next vestry."

In 1747 they reported: "That at or near a spring on Randolph's and Talbot's road, near the fork, be the most convenient place." The locality is on the outskirts of the present village of Drakes Branch. In August 1748, it was ordered: "That the Church appointed to be built near Little Roanoke be lett to undertakers by Lewis Deloney, Abraham Martin and Clement Read." It was here that, acording to Powhatan Bouldin, Madam Read "dressed in lute string silk, lawn apron and round top hat, walked majestically up the aisle, the eyes of the whole congregation upon her when she took her seat in the upper pew, her silver can of water by her side."

The mansion which he erected was the first frame house built in the county, most of the settlers contenting themselves with log homes. The exact spot on which it stood is not now known, but all the indications, both in the records and on the ground, seem to point to the site of the present W. G. Spencer dwelling, about two miles from Charlotte Courthouse, as the place. The present house was built in 1905 after the destruction by fire

of an older one on the same spot, reputed to have been built by John Randolph about one hundred years ago. The visitor today sees nothing to remind him of the traditional grandeur of Bushy Forest—none of the winding roads and gravel walks, the native shrubs and imported evergreens which according to Bouldin once adorned the grounds—only a simple, comfortable farm house, surrounded by well-tilled, fertile fields. To the rear of the house is the indispensable spring which determined the location of most dwellings in pioneer days, and towering above it a magnificent willow oak, more than fifteen feet in circumference. Leading away from the premises is a deeply sunken ravine marking the track of the old carriage road. Two or three hundred yards to the right of the house one finds a small plot overgrown with fennel and briars, and lying here and there over it the fallen headstones of ancient graves, made of native rock and bearing no inscriptions. According to the present owner, this is the oldest of several graveyards on the place, and is most probably the spot where the bodies of the old pioneer and his stately wife are buried. Recalling the small size and the simplicity of the original portions of Greenfield, Mulberry Hill, Red Hill and other pre-Revolutionary homes in the county, one is inclined to suspect that the magnificence of the ancient Bushy Forest has been exaggerated with the passing years, but the inventory of its furniture filed at Clement Read's death in 1763 includes "12 beds and furniture." "25 leather-bottom chairs," "16 chairs with rush bottoms," "2 cheares more," "9 tables," as well as chests, books, desks, plate, pewter plates and dishes, etc., etc., all of which indicates that it was much larger than the ordinary for the frontier, as well as much more elegant, and that it deserved its reputation.

Col. Clement Read died without a will, and all his lands descended by operation of law to his eldest son, Clement, Junior. After perfecting the titles by obtaining patents, the latter divided these lands by deed among his brothers and himself in such a way as to make ample

provision for all of them. He kept Ash Camp for himself; Isaac received the lands near Do-Well; Thomas, a tract on the headwaters of Spring Creek, on which he lived, and other scattered acreages; and Bushy Forest was settled on Madam Read for life as a home for herself and her two youngest sons, Edmund and Jonathan, lads of 14 and 11 respectively, to be divided at her death between them so as to give Edmund the eastern half, known afterwards as Retirement, and Jonathan the western on which the residence stood.

Madam Read reigned over this vast estate with its colonies of slaves, its thoroughbred horses, its smiling acres, for 23 years after her husband's death, managing it with ability and ruling her family with firmness in the stormy days before, during, and after the Revolution. Her son, Jonathan, remained in possession until his death in 1795, and left it to his three sons, Thomas, Howell and Charles, but the entire family emigrated soon afterwards and scattered over the South. For the ensuing 25 years Bushy Forest was probably managed by overseers for its absentee landlords. In 1820 it was purchased by John Randolph of Roanoke. As an illustration of the petulant ill-nature which sometimes characterized Randolph's conduct, Powhatan Bouldin gives us the following account of this purchase:

"Mr. Randolph bought Bushy Forest of Mr. Howell Read. Mr. Read was very reluctant to sell it, but after repeated solicitations he consented. When the papers were all signed, Mr. Randolph turned around and chided him for selling the graves of his forefathers. Mr. Bedford, who was present at the time, regarded it as a most unjustifiable piece of ill-nature."

Randolph, of course, never lived on it, but in all probability established a "Quarter" or settlement of slaves, on it in charge of an overseer. Under this sort of tenancy one would expect that whatever was left of its former grandeur and glory would disappear rapidly. I have already referred to the tradition that Randolph built the dwelling which burned in 1905, indicating that

the original dwelling may have burned during his ownership. He devised the property in one of his numerous wills to Henry St. G. Tucker, but while the protracted litigation over these wills was in progress, an opportunity to sell it arose, and Mr. Tucker united with the heirs-at-law of Randolph in 1840 in conveying it to Wm. Smith, Winslow Robinson, James W. Bouldin, Joseph Dupuy and Josiah Vaughan, five prominent citizens of Charlotte Courthouse, for $30,000.00. These gentlemen partitioned it among themselves in proportion to their investment, the upper end next to the village going to Joseph Dupuy, the part now called Arcadia to Wm. Smith, the residence tract to Winslow Robinson, and the part south of Roanoke Creek to Bouldin and Vaughan. Winslow Robinson conveyed his part, which now retained the name of Bushy Forest, to his mother, Mrs. Obedience Robinson, and his brother-in-law, Jno E. Smith. It was purchased from their heirs in 1873 by the late Mr. William G. Spencer (Senior), whose first wife was Ann Elizabeth Smith, a daughter of Jno E. Smith and a granddaughter of Obedience Robinson, and has been in his family ever since, being now owned by Mr. Wm. G. Spencer, Junior. The present Bushy Forest contains about 600 acres and lies near the center of the original 5,000.

"RETIREMENT"

Home of Major Edmund Read

As stated before, Retirement, which comprised the 2,000 acres of Bushy Forest lying north of Little Roanoke and East of the road "from the Magazine to the upper bridge," became the property of Maj. Edmund Read after his mother's death. He is said to have named it after he came home from the War and settled on it, as an expression of his appreciation of its quiet, after seven years of strife. He was a gallant Revolutionary officer, represented the County in the Legislature, and held other positions of importance after the War, but

his fame is somewhat overshadowed by that of his pious wife, Paulina, daughter of Gov. Wm. Cabell of "Union Hill", and sister of Judge Wm. H. Cabell. Maj. Read died in 1802, leaving no children and devising the whole of his estate to his wife. In 1808 she married Rev. Nash LeGrand, and is referred to still in the community of Charlotte C. H. as "Madam LeGrand." Her fame as a pillar in the Presbyterian Church of Virginia, a benefactor of Union Theological Seminary, a patron of the Alexanders and other distinguished ministers, and a supporter of every worthy charitable and benevolent cause, is well known. The vivacious Mrs. Alice Read Rouse says of her "She lived at 'Retirement' very comfortably, the place being famed for its lovely flower gardens and for being a sort of Saint's Rest for the Presbyterian Church." Nash LeGrand died in 1814 while on a visit to Winchester. His wife survived him for thirty-one years, and is buried by the side of her first husband in the "Retirement" Cemetery, where, in spite of briars and weeds and neglect, one may still decipher the following inscription on the broken slab which marks her resting place:

In Memory of
PAULINA LEGRAND

Daughter of Col. Wm. Cabell, first wife of Maj. Edmund Read. She died the relict of Rev. Nash LeGrand, aged about 78.

She was Zealous in Piety, Hospitable to All, Industrious and Frugal,

Yet Liberal in the Support of every Christian & Benevolent Enterprise."

Having no children, Mrs. LeGrand left "Retirement" to her niece and adopted daughter, Louisa Cabell Carrington, wife of Henry Carrington, of "Ingleside". Mrs. Carrington gave about 600 acres of it, including the dwelling, to her son, the late Col. Henry A. Carrington, and divided the rest among her other children. Col. Henry A. Carrington lived here from 1857 to 1884. In

that year it was sold to Wm. A. Smith and passed from his family to that of Mr. R. W. Payne, the present owner, in 1900.

The Retirement house is about 1½ miles from Charlotte Court House, on the opposite side of the road from Bushy Forest. It is a rambling, but attractive, frame structure of considerable size. The four rooms in front were built by Col. Carrington, but a part of it still in use was built by Maj. Edmund Read. It is well known that both Dr. Archibald Alexander and his son, James W. Alexander, lived here when they preached in Charlotte. The latter in a letter to a friend in the North, writes: "Retirement, March 13, 1827, On the 3rd inst. I was ordained to the work of the gospel ministry by the Hanover Presbytery. A number of Clergymen and a vast concourse of the laity were here present. More than 30 strangers lodged at this house on one night"!

"ASH CAMP"
Home of Clement Read, Junior

Ash Camp is a little stream some six or seven miles long which rises in the neighborhood of Keysville, and flows westwardly to its junction with Little Roanoke opposite "Retirement". The name is as old as our first patents and I do not know its origin. Speaking generally, it parallels on the left the present highway from Keysville to Charlotte C. H. In the valley of this stream on both sides extending from Golden Hills, the Boudin home, almost to Keysville, lay the Ash Camp plantation which Clement Read, Junior, chose as his part of his father's estate. It is regrettable that we do not know more about the home as well as about the life of this worthy member of the family. Judge Paul Carrington wrote of him that he was "ever remarked for his genuine virtue, justice and integrity." Being a member of the Burgesses when Charlotte County was formed, it is likely that he gave the County its name—chosen in honor of the popular young queen of George III. He died in 1770 at the early age of 34, having already become one of the leading men

of his day. After his death a part of the estate remained for many years in the hands of his son, Thomas, who signed his name "Thomas Read, Junior of Ash Camp," to distinguish himself from his more famous uncle, Thomas Read, the Clerk. His children moved away, and the property all finally passed out of the Read family in 1838, the last owner of that name being Dr. Albert Gallatin Read, who lived where Mr. J. Bruce Vaughan now lives.

At this late day there seems to be neither recollection nor tradition as to the site of the original "Ash Camp" residence of Clement Read, Jr. A very ancient frame building still standing on the farm of the late Wm. W. Watkins and now used as a barn, but plainly once a dwelling, has been suggested as the spot on account of the fact that it is apparently the oldest structure now found in the original Ash Camp area. This is possible, but my own opinion, after a careful examination of the various deeds and wills to lands in the vicinity is that the mansion house was situated where Mr. J. B. Vaughan now lives, and that it, like so many others in the county, was destroyed by fire so long ago that all trace of it is lost.

"INGLESIDE"
Home of Col. Thomas Read, the Clerk

Though Ingleside joins Retirement on the opposite side of Little Roanoke, it was never a part of Bushy Forest, having been patented by Thos. Jones in 1745. Prior to 1786 Col. Thomas Read, the Clerk, lived, as is shown by a recital in a deed which he made in that year, on a tract of land on the head branches of Spring Creek in the neighborhood of Briery Church, afterwards known as the Hankins farm. He purchased the Ingleside tract in 1785, and presumably moved on it at that time. Family tradition has it that it was first known as Singleside, but that either he, or the next owner, Henry Carrington, changed its name, after his marriage, to Ingleside. Col. Read built the present brick house in 1810. The office in

the yard is said to have served as the County Clerk's Office during his life, none being built at the court house until after his death in 1817.

In 1818 the aged Judge Paul Carrington bought Ingleside as a home for his son, Henry Carrington, and it remained in his family for sixty years. He was a splendid type of the antebellum Virginia planter. Educated at Hampden-Sydney and Princeton, a man of culture and wide interests, he sought no public office but found ample outlet for his energies in the management of his great estate, the care of his slaves and the upbringing of his family of two splendid sons and four charming daughters. In this period Ingleside had its greatest renown as a home of plenty and contentment, of culture, and of overflowing hospitality.

Ingleside was probably the first brick house to be built in the county. It is in the prevailing Georgian style of the period, a wide hall through the center from front to rear with two large rooms on either side, two stories and a commodious attic above the basement, wide porches with white columns at both front and back. It stands on an eminence overlooking the lowgrounds of Little Roanoke, its green lawns sloping gently from it in all directions. With its declining fortunes even the county road which once lead by it—the old "Bouldin's Road," as it was called, from Charlotte Courthouse to Golden Hills—has been abandoned, and it is now hard to reach by car, but the visitor will find himself repaid for the effort. The old red house, sitting in gloomy grandeur amid the ragged remnants of its box bushes, its lawns and its gardens, seems to transport oneself back to the time when its halls rang with the happy laughter of gay young voices, and the busy hum of plantation life could be heard over all the large estates.

"GREENFIELD"
Home of Col. Isaac Read

That part of his father's estate which Col. Isaac Read received by deed from his brother Clement was a tract

of 818 acres, lying on both sides of Little Roanoke in the neighborhood of Do-Well, and probably including the land on which the Do-Well dwelling now stands, In 1769 he purchased from Thos. Tabb and Peter Farrar of Amelia, the tract of 1010 acres on Little Roanoke, and "the creek called Dunivant," which he named "Greenfield." Here he built the house in which we are meeting today, and to which he brought his bride, Sara Embry, in 1771. Greenfield has the distinction of being the only one of these early Read homes which has remained in the family down to the present time. Col. Isaac Read left two sons, Clement, afterwards to be known in the family history as "Parson" Read, and Isaac Read II. His lands were divided by the County Court in 1792 by allotting the Do-Well tract and 400 acres in Brunswick to Clement, and Greenfield to Isaac Read II, from whom it passed by descent to his son, William Watkins Read, and from him to the present owners, our gracious hosts today.

A word here as to the homes of Rev. Clement Read may be of interest. A letter of Mr. Wm. W. Read written in 1888 and recently published in the Hampden-Sydney Record states that Parson Read's first residence was his inheritance, "the place now owned and occupied by Mrs. Margaret Gaines." The reference is to Do-Well, but not to the present building, which was erected later by Wm. Morton Watkins. My great-grandmother was a daughter of Parson Read, and some years ago I was much puzzled to find no record of her marriage in Charlotte County Clerk's Office, never having heard that the Parson lived elsewhere, but I discovered by accident that from 1806 to 1812 he lived in Halifax County, on a farm which he bought adjoining his brother-in-law, Capt. Henry Edmunds, and to my great relief, I located my missing marriage record in that office. After returning to Charlotte, he lived at Greenwood for a time and then moved to Ward's Neck, on Staunton River, where he died and is buried.

As to Greenfield. I can do no better than to copy from

"INGLESIDE," Home of Col. Thomas Read, the Clerk
(See Page 42)

"GREENFIELD," Home of Col. Isaac Read
(See Page 43)

"The Reads and their Relatives" what Mrs. Rouse has written about it:

"The year that Col. Isaac Read married in 1771 Sarah Embra, he built the old Greenfield house on his plantation in Charlotte County, which still stands and has always been owned and lived in by his descendants. It was builded when great forest trees had to be cut to make its hand-hewn timbers. The hand-wrought nails, the woodwork, everything used in its construction, were made on the place by his servants, while the blanketed Indians of the back country stood about and wondered at so huge a wigwam. The house has a tall central building, flanked by low, wise-spreading wings. The rooms are well-proportioned, of gracious height and hospitable amplitude, and are panelled and wainscoted, with carved mantels and stars. It stands with entrances to the north and south, the wings outspread to east and west. A hall bisects it: one door giving a glimpse of the North-star through great elms which were planted among the oaks a hundred years ago, when sons returned from New England's Harvard and Yale, thus memorialized their universities. The south doors open on a white-pillared gallery, which looks toward the garden, from which a path shaded by cedars and boxwood leads to the stone-walled burying-ground where more than thirty of Col. Isaac Read's kindred sleep, though his body lies far away.

"Down the creek which flows through the plantation is an ancient mill which with its great wheel turning still grinds the corn as it has done for a hundred and fifty years."

Greenfield has always been the mecca of the Read clan, and it is easy to understand the high place it occupies in their affections.

(The End)